

**ADVANCING TO
SPIRITUAL ADULTHOOD**

by

Rev. Nick J. Bitakis

TEACHER'S MANUAL

“ADVANCING TO
SPIRITUAL ADULTHOOD”

is the sequel
to “FULL LIFE IN CHRIST”

Both are written by
Pastor Nick J. Bitakis
New Life Christian Fellowship
6235 West North Avenue
Oak Park, IL 60302

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MY COMMITMENT

Knowing it is important to advance to spiritual adulthood, I am making a commitment today to the Advancing To Spiritual Adulthood class. I will be faithful every week to attend, be attentive, and write in the answers. I will not miss a class, and I will finish all 13 lessons with God's grace. Today, I am making this commitment to the Lord.

Date _____

Signed _____

Advancing In Our Relationship With The Lord

- I We should advance to a **close** relationship with the Lord.
- A. Jesus is **calling** us to a close, intimate relationship with Him (Revelation 3:20). He desires and invites us to have this kind of relationship.
 - B. Every Christian believer can have a close relationship with the Lord through the **Holy Spirit** (John 14:17,18).
The Holy Spirit has come to live inside of every Christian, and He brings the presence of the Lord.
- II Why is it so important to have a close relationship with the Lord?
- A. We will experience and enjoy more of the Lord's **special presence** (James 4:8a).
We will experience and enjoy more of His joy, love, power, wisdom, and peace.
 - B. We will be able to **resist** Satan and all his evil forces (Ephesians 6:10,11).
Only when we have a close relationship with the Lord can we resist evil and evil spirits.
Through that closeness with the Lord, we receive His mighty strength and power.
 - C. We will be **used more** in God's kingdom (John 15:5).
There will be a special touch and anointing upon us, and we will be more effective in His work.
 - D. We will **hear** His voice more clearly (Revelation 3:20,22).
We need to hear Christ's voice to know what He is saying to us. The closer we are to Christ, the clearer His voice is to us.
- III How do we have a close relationship with the Lord?
- A. We must **desire** to be close to the Lord more than anything else in life (Psalm 42:1,2).
We must really want to have a close fellowship with God.
 - B. We must make a **full surrender** to the Lord Jesus Christ (Luke 9:23,24).
A full surrender doesn't mean we will live a perfect life, but a dedicated life to the Lord. It is giving our whole life to Jesus, and living to please Him.
 - C. We must **spend time** with the Lord every day (Psalm 16:11).
Every day we need to spend quality time with the Lord. We must read the word of God, and ask God to speak to us. There should also be a time of prayer, a time of talking to the Lord. Reading the word and prayer are absolutely necessary.

- D. We must **communicate** with the Lord throughout the day (I Thessalonians 5:17).
This means talking and sharing with Him during the day, and bringing Him into our daily lives. We can communicate inwardly as well as verbally. It is also good to get into the habit of praising the Lord.

- E. We must always have a **humble** attitude before the Lord (I Peter 5:5,6).
This means many things, such as: acknowledging our sins, asking for help, relying upon Him, allowing God to correct us and speak into our lives, realizing that He is the source, etc. Jesus said that without Him, we cannot do anything, anything of spiritual significance (John 15:5).

- F. We must develop a **sensitivity** to the Lord's active presence inside of us (Galatians 5:16,25).
The Lord through the Spirit is communicating and working in us. We must discern when He is, and respond to Him.

- G. We must aggressively **pursue** this close relationship.
There will be many hindrances to keep us from having a close relationship with God. We must be determined, and continually go after a closer relationship with the Lord.

Advancing In Our Commitment To Christ

- I We ought to make a **total** commitment to Christ and His kingdom (Romans 12:1,2).
- A. This means giving our **entire** life to Christ and His kingdom (Luke 9:23,24).
This involves a full surrender to His Lordship, and a life style of following Christ. This doesn't mean perfection, but dedication.
 - B. This means being a **disciple** of Jesus Christ (Matthew 28:19).
Discipleship and salvation are different. Salvation is by faith alone, while discipleship requires continual obedience. Being a disciple means being a close follower of Christ, and living a life of obedience to Christ.
 - C. This means having a **close relationship** with Christ (Psalm 42:1,2).
A totally committed Christian has a close relationship with Christ, and wants to get even closer to Christ.
 - D. This means **pursuing** the things of the kingdom (Matthew 6:33).
One who has made a deep commitment to Christ is aggressively going after the things of the Kingdom. He is hungry for God and spiritual things, and wants all that God has for him.
- II We ought to make a total commitment to evangelism (Mark 16:15; Acts 8:4).
- A. We should be **proclaiming** the gospel (good news) of Jesus Christ to lost people (Acts 8:4).
We should be sharing Christ verbally with others on a regular basis. The salvation of the lost is the great desire of Christ, and should be our great desire. We should commit our lives to win people to Christ.
 - B. We should be **praying** for the salvation of lost souls (Romans 10:1).
We should be praying for the Lord to save our relatives, friends, fellow employees, fellow students, and other lost people we meet. As we pray for the salvation of people, we get a burden for them.
 - C. We should be **bold** in our witnessing and sharing Christ (Romans 1:16).
We must decide to be a fool for Christ, and be willing to be ridiculed for Christ. Decide with God's grace to overcome all fear in witnessing.
 - D. We should be **giving out** salvation literature to people (Psalm 126:5,6).
The written word of the gospel is powerful, and we should be committed to spreading the gospel everywhere we go (Acts 8:4). Be committed to giving out tracts or salvation literature.
 - E. We should be **supporting** the work of evangelism world-wide (Matthew 28:19).
It is the will of God that the whole world hear the gospel, and people all over the world be saved. We should support world missions and evangelism with our prayers and money.

- III We ought to make a total commitment to the local church (Hebrews 10:24,25).
- A .Jesus is **committed** to the local church (Matthew 16:18; Revelation 1:20-2:1).
The local church is a local group of believers for whom Christ died. Christ is committed to building up the church, and we should be too.
- B. We should **attend** the services on a regular basis (Hebrews 10:25).
Besides joining the church, we should make a commitment to attend regularly. We should commit to attend all the services of the church: Sunday School, Morning and Evening services, and the Midweek service. We will see a lot of growth in our lives if we do.
- C. We should get **involved** and do something in the church (I Corinthians 15:58).
We should serve the Lord, and help in the church. Whatever we do, let's be faithful and consistent in the Lord's work.
- D. We should be **supportive** of the local church and it's leadership (I Thessalonians 5:11,12).
We should support the local church and help build it up. It is the Lord's church. This means being positive, helping others, supporting the ministries, and following leadership. This also means supporting the local church financially with our tithes and offerings.

Advancing In Prayer

- I We must be convinced of how important prayer is.
- A. Jesus, God's son, was a **prayer**. He prayed regularly and daily. We should follow His example (Mark 1:35; Luke 5:16).
 - B. Prayer is very **powerful** and **effective** (James 5:16).
God works mightily through prayer, and He uses our prayers to accomplish His plan and work, such as the salvation of souls, lives changed, needs met, and many miracles.
 - C. Let's ask the Lord to **reveal** to us the importance of prayer through His word and His Spirit. We must have a spiritual understanding of the power of prayer.
- II We must understand that there are different **kinds** of prayer that we should practice (Ephesians 6:18).
- A. There is **asking** prayer (John 14:13,14; Philippians 4:6).
This is the central idea of prayer, asking. Let's give our requests to the Lord, and expect the Lord to answer.
 - B. There is **intercessory** prayer (I Timothy 2:1-4).
This simply is praying for other people, praying for the lost, as well as praying for the saved.
 - C. There is **praising** prayer (Hebrews 13:15).
There is a lot of praise prayers in the book of Psalms. We should praise the Lord continually for what He has done, and for who He is.
 - D. There is **confessing** prayer (Psalm 51:1,2).
In prayer, we should acknowledge and admit our sins before God. We should ask God to change and help us.
 - E. There is **dedication** prayer (John 17:19; Matthew 26:39).
Dedication prayer is when we surrender and dedicate ourselves to the Lord, and we verbalize it.
 - F. There is **warfare** prayer (James 4:7; Matthew 4:10).
There could be praying to God that Satan and his evil forces be defeated, and also a direct speaking to Satan and his evil spirits in which we come against his evil forces.
 - G. We need to be **led** by the Spirit as far as what kind of praying should be done (Ephesians 6:18).
Sometimes it will be only one or two kinds, and sometimes it will be a real mixture.

- III We must develop a **life** of prayer, and the discipline of prayer (I Thessalonians 5:17).
- A. Let's ask the Lord to increase our **desire** to pray.
As we ask for an increased desire to pray and as we practice prayer, our desire to pray will increase.
 - B. Prayer must become a top **priority** in our lives (Matthew 6:33).
 - C. We must make a **commitment** in our hearts to pray daily.
 - D. We must develop the **godly habit** of prayer (I Timothy 4:7).
Prayer like other spiritual exercises must become a habit in which it becomes second nature to us.
 - E. It is good to pray **before** our day begins (Mark 1:35).
It is good to get alone with the Lord and experience His presence before we face the world.
 - F. We need to get into the habit of praying **throughout** the day (I Thessalonians 5:17).
We can pray at various intervals throughout the day.
 - G. It is good to set a **specific time** to be alone with the Lord in prayer.
Besides praying throughout the day, we need to have a specific time to pray. This will help us to develop the habit of praying.
 - H. Besides praying in our native tongue, we should pray in **tongues** on a regular basis (I Corinthians 14:14,15).
The gift of tongues is to enrich our prayer life. Let's speak and sing in this spiritual language on a regular basis.
 - I. We should always be **sensitive** to the leading of the Spirit in prayer (Galatians 5:25; Ephesians 6:18).
The Holy Spirit will help and guide us while we pray. Let's develop a sensitivity to His leadings and influences in our spirits.

Advancing In Understanding The Bible

- I We need to understand all divisions of the Bible.
- A. There is the twofold divisions of the Bible, the **Old** Testament or Covenant and the **New** Testament or Covenant.
- B. The Old Testament has **39** books, from Genesis through Malachi.
1. There are five books of the **Law**, or Pentateuch, written by Moses.
- Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy -
 2. There are twelve books of **History**, written by several authors.
- Joshua, Judges, Ruth, I & II Samuel, I & II Kings,
I & II Chronicles, Ezra, Nehemiah and Esther -
 3. There are five books of **Poetry**, written by several authors.
- Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, and Song of Songs or Solomon -
 4. There are five books called **Major Prophets**, written by different authors.
- Isaiah, Jeremiah, Lamentations, Ezekiel and Daniel -
 5. There are twelve books called **Minor Prophets**, written by many authors.
- Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai,
Zechariah and Malachi -
These contain prophecy too, but are called minor because they are each much shorter books than the previous group.
- C. The New Testament has **27** books.
1. The first four books are called the **Gospels**.
- Matthew, Mark, Luke and John -
These contain the life, ministry, death and resurrection of Christ.
 2. There is one book of **Church History**. - Acts -
 3. There are 21 books called the **Epistles** or **Letters**.
- Romans, I & II Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, I & II Thessalonians,
I & II Timothy, Titus, Philemon, Hebrews, James, I & II Peter, I, II, III John, and Jude -
These books are divided into the Pauline Epistles and General Epistles. The Apostle Paul wrote most of them, 13 for sure. No one knows for sure who wrote Hebrews. The other books were written by the author they are named after. These books contain the heart of Christian truth, truth about salvation, Christian living, the Church, Christian doctrine, etc.
 4. The last book is called **Prophecy**. - Revelation -
This book contains truth about the church age, and end-time events.
- II We need to know how to interpret the Bible correctly.
There are some important truths and principles we need to know in interpreting correctly.
- A. There are different **dispensations** in the Bible.
These are different periods of time when God deals with man in a different way. Some say that there are 7 dispensations. It is important to know that God has dealt with man differently throughout the history of mankind. We are now in the dispensation of grace, and grace, not law is how God deals with us (John 1:17).

- B. The Bible **progressively** reveals truth.
As more was written, more was revealed. Genesis has kernels of truth, while the epistles contains a fuller development of truth.
- C. The **fuller** Christian and Church truth is found in the **epistles** or letters in the New Testament. These contain New Covenant truths, and we are now under the New Covenant. The epistles of Paul contain the greatest revelation of truth, because God revealed more things to Paul (II Corinthians 12:7; Ephesians 3:2,3; and II Peter 3:15,16). The heart of New Covenant truths is found in Paul's writings.
- D. To understand the **historical background** of each book of the Bible will greatly help in interpreting the message of each book.
"Eerdmans Handbook to the Bible," "The Bible, Book by Book," and "The IVP Bible Background Commentary:New Testament" will help.
- E. We always should interpret every verse in it's **context**.
The context is the verses before and after each verse we are trying to understand. Then remember to consider the context of the chapter and book.
- F. We always should rely upon the **Holy Spirit** in helping us to understand the Bible (John 16:13).
- G. There are helpful **Bible study helps** that will aid you in understanding and interpreting the Bible.
A good study Bible, the amplified Bible, a Bible dictionary, and a good commentary are good for starters.

III We need to devote ourselves to know the Word (the Bible) better.

- A. We must **meditate** upon it every day (Psalm 1:1,2).
This means thinking about what it means, and what it means in our lives.
- B. We must **memorize** important verses (Psalm 119:11).
There are certain verses that contain powerful truths that we should know by memory.
- C. We should **study** God's Word on some regular basis (II Timothy 2:15).
To do this we need good Bible study helps or tools. A list of important books to have is available.
- D. We should **apply** God's Word to our lives (James 1:22-25).
As we understand what God is saying to us in His Word, we should endeavor to apply it to our daily lives.

BIBLE STUDY HELPS

(For Every Christian who wants to Study the Bible)

- **The Amplified Bible**
“A Bible which amplifies and brings out a fuller meaning from the original languages.”
- **The Bible, Book by Book** (G. Coleman Luck, Moody Press)
“It gives the Author, Purpose, theme and an outline of every book of the Bible.”
- **Eerdmans Handbook to the Bible** (Wm Eerdman Publishing Co.)
“It gives good information about the Bible, and about each book of the Bible, with colorful pictures.”
- **How to Study The Bible For Yourself** (Tim LaHaye)
“It gives some principles of interpreting and studying the Bible.”
- **Nave’s Topical Bible** (Revised & Enlarged Edition)
“It lists the scripture verses according to the various topics in the Bible.”
- **The New Bible Commentary** (Wm Eerdmans Publishing Co.)
“It gives interpretive comments in every book of the Bible”.
- **The New Bible Dictionary** (Second Edition, Inter Varsity Press)
“It describes the various persons, places, and various items which are in the Bible.”
- **The New Topical Text Book**
“It gives 20,000 topics and subtopics with Bible references.” It is excellent for teaching & preaching. (Sword of the Lord Publishers, P.O. Bos 1099, Murfreesboro, TN 35133, 1 800 251-4000)
- **Strong’s Exhaustive Concordance or Young’s Concordance**
“It gives the scripture references of the words of scripture (very thorough) and a brief meaning from the Hebrew and Greek.”
- **Study Bible** (comes in different versions) “It gives a background and outline of each book of the Bible, with helpful notes.” Purchase a good study Bible through Moody Bookstore.
- **Vines Expository Dictionary of Biblical Words**
“It explains and defines the meanings of the words in the Old and New Testaments from the Hebrew and Greek.” It is also keyed to Strong’s Concordance.
- **Wilson’s Old Testament Word Studies**
It gives the meaning of all the words in the Old Testament.
- **Know What You Believe** (by Paul Little)
“It gives the meaning and interpretation of the important Christian doctrines.”

- **Know Why You Believe** (by Paul Little)
“It gives a good Christian defense of our faith.”
- **Living By The Book** (by William & Howard Hendricksen)
“It gives a through presentation on how to study & interpret the Bible.”
- **Nave’s Topical Bible** (Moody Press)
“It gives the scripture and its references of important topics in the Bible.”
- **The Comparative Study Bible** (Zondervan)
“A parallel Bible of four translations: King James, New International, New American Standard, and the Amplified.”
- **The IVP Bible Background Commentary: New Testament** (Craig S. Keener)
“It gives the historical and cultural background of every section in the New Testament.”
- **Tyndale New Testament Commentaries** (Revised Edition)
“It gives various comments of interpretation in every New Testament book.”
- **Nelson’s Three-in-one Reference Companion** (Thomas Nelson Publishers)
“It gives the scripture references of various topics, and a brief meaning.”
- **The Discovery Bible** (Moody Press)
“A more literal translation of the New Testament, bringing out the tenses and grammar of the New Testament.”
- **The International Standard Encyclopedia** (Four Volumes)
“It is an exhaustive study on all the topics, persons, places, and doctrines in the Bible.”
- **The New Manners & Customs of Bible Times** (Moody Press)
“It gives a cultural background of geography, manners, customs in the Bible which helps in interpretation.”
- **The Wycliff Historical Geography of Biblical Lands** (Moody Press)
“It gives a description of the history and geography of all the Bible lands.”
- **Tyndale Old Testament Commentaries** (Revised Edition)
“It gives various comments of interpretation in every Old Testament book.”

- = First Priority
- = Second Priority
- = Third Priority

Advancing In The Spirit

- I We need to understand who the Holy Spirit is.
- A .He is **God** (Acts 6:3-4).
He is equal with the Father and the Son, and has all the characteristics of God.
 - B .He is a **person** (John 16:12-14).
He has a mind, will and emotions which makes Him a real person.
 - C. He is the Christian's **divine helper** (John 14:16,17).
The greek word for comforter/counselor in some versions means "helper." The Spirit lives inside of every believer to give divine help to live the Christian life.
- II We need to respond to the Holy Spirit's work in and through us.
- A. This means **allowing** the Spirit to change us from the inside (I Thessalonians 5:19).
The Holy Spirit is changing our minds and our inner nature to be Christlike (Galatians 5:22,23). He is using the written word, prayer, the church, circumstances, etc. Our part is to be open and yielded to the Spirit's work in us.
 - B. This means **obeying** the Spirit when He tells us what to do (Romans 8:5,14).
We need to listen to what the Spirit is saying to us, and obey Him. He speaks in many ways, but the important thing is to obey.
 - C. This means **relying** upon the Spirit in our Christian life (Galatians 5:16).
We need to develop an attitude of trust and dependence upon the Spirit's indwelling presence and power.
- III We need to recognize the Spirit's voice in our lives (Revelation 2:7).
- A. The Spirit **communicates** to us in our spirits in different ways.
He is continually communicating and speaking to us. We need to recognize His voice and respond to Him.
 - B. The Spirit speaks clear **words** to us (Acts 8:29).
He does not speak audibly, but spiritually to the inner person. We hear His voice in our spirits. These words will vary. He speaks words of exhortation, encouragement, correction, compliments, instruction, wisdom, etc. He knows what words we need at the time.
 - C. The Spirit puts **impressions**, at times, upon our spirits.
Sometimes the Spirit will put an impression or burden upon us to do or not to do something.

- D. The Spirit at times imparts a **sense** about something on the inside.
Sometimes we will get a sense about a situation, and sometimes it can be a sense of urgency.
- E. The Spirit at times will communicate His **emotions** about something or someone (Romans 14:17).
The Spirit wants us to know His emotions and feelings. He speaks and communicates not only thoughts and words, but His emotion and feeling. It can be sadness, joy, peace, love, etc.
- IV We need to cooperate with the Holy Spirit's supernatural activity (I Thessalonians 5:19).
- A. The Holy Spirit will lead us to **pray** at specific times for specific things (Ephesians 6:18).
Many times the Holy Spirit will put a special burden upon our hearts, or lead us to pray about something or someone.
- B. The Holy Spirit will guide us in **witnessing** (Acts 8:29,30).
He will lead us to someone or give us specific words to share with the unsaved.
- C. The Holy Spirit wants to use us in the exercise of certain **manifestations** (I Corinthians 12:7-10).
He works through us, but we have to cooperate with the Spirit's activity.
- D. The Holy Spirit will inspire us in **praise** (Acts 2:4; 10:46).
He wants to lead us into praise and worship. He will help us in expressing ourselves in adoration to God in our native tongue and in other tongues.
- E. The Holy Spirit wants to use us in **ministering** to others (I Corinthians 12:7).
He wants to use us to bless and minister to others. We need to step out and let His power flow through us to touch others.
- F. The important thing to remember is that we need to **cooperate** with the Holy Spirit (Galatians 5:25).
This cooperation includes some action, speaking something or doing something.

Advancing In Victory

- I Victory over sin and Satan is possible through the Lord Jesus Christ.
 - A .Christ **broke** the power of sin when He died on the cross (Colossians 2:13-15).
The penalty and power of sin was dealt with entirely when Christ died and rose again.
 - B. We now can live a victorious life through our **union** with the living Christ (I Corinthians 15:57; Romans 8:37).
When we accept Christ, we are joined to Him. Through that living union we can overcome sin and Satan.
 - C. We can overcome all or any evil through Christ's **strength** (Ephesians 6:10).
Through Christ's mighty strength and power we can be victorious over sin, Satan, and any evil spirit.

- II The motivation to live a victorious life.
 - A. Living a victorious life brings **joy** and **peace** (Romans 8:6).
The Spirit releases a divine joy and peace when we overcome through Christ.
 - B. Living a victorious life brings real **freedom** (Galatians 5:1).
This freedom is an inner freedom from the grip of sin and evil spirits. Freedom is ours in Christ.
 - C. Living a victorious life will **help** others to victory (I Thessalonians 1:4-7).
We will have strength and wisdom to help others to victory.
 - D. Living a victorious life will bring **eternal rewards** in heaven (Revelation 3:21).
If we overcome in this life, we will be rewarded for all eternity.

- III How can we be victorious, and live a life of victory?
 - A. We need to understand our **position** in Christ.
In Christ we are overcomers (I John 5:4,5).
 - B. We need to make a **full surrender** to Christ (James 4:7).
We cannot overcome and be victorious unless we live a surrendered life to Christ. His divine power is released in our lives as we surrender to Him.
 - C. We need to have a victorious **mind set** (Philippians 4:13).
We must have an attitude that we can win and be victorious through Christ.
 - D. We need to daily **fellowship** with Christ (John 15:5).
Only as we daily communicate and draw our strength from Him can we overcome.

- E. We need to **saturate** ourselves with God's Word (I John 2:14).
Let's read, meditate, memorize and apply the scriptures. It is a must to know the promises of God's Word, and use them.
- F. We need to **humble** ourselves and confess our weaknesses to the Lord (I Peter 5:5,6).
This means we look to the Lord for His help and grace to win the battles.
- G. We need to **call** on the Lord when we need His help (Psalm 34:15).
When we ask Him for His help, He responds and gives what we need to win.
- H. We need to have an attitude of **dependence** upon the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit (Galatians 5:16).
This means relying upon the overcoming strength and power of the Holy Spirit.
- I. We need to learn to **fight** against sin and evil spirits (Ephesians 6:10-12; I Timothy 6:12).
With the Lord's strength, we must exercise our wills to resist sin and evil (James 4:7). Victory doesn't mean that there will not be battles. Sometimes there will be intense battles, but we must determine to resist and overcome through His mighty strength.
- J. We need to use **spiritual weapons** that are at our disposal (II Corinthians 10:5).
There are many weapons that God has provided: prayer, praise, the scriptures, our authority in Christ, etc. These are powerful weapons that we need to use.

Advancing In Faith

I Faith is very important.

- A. Faith **pleases** God (Hebrews 11:6).
Faith is how we come to God and experience God.
- B. Faith is how we **receive** from the hand of God (Hebrews 11:6; Matthew 21:22).
There are many blessings that God has for us, and the only way to receive them is by exercising faith.
- C. Faith is how we **overcome** the enemy and evil (I John 5:4; Ephesians 6:16).
Our faith in God is how we stand and overcome all the attacks of the enemy.
- D. Faith is how we **persevere** in trials (James 1:2-4).
Standing firm in our faith is how we stand and overcome in various trials.
- E. Faith is how we **accomplish** great things for God (Matthew 21:21,22; Mark 9:23).
When we move in faith, we will see great things done, and even the humanly impossible things become possible.

II We need to understand the different **kinds** of faith.

There are different kinds of faith that are required for different things in the Christian life.

- A. There is **saving** faith (Romans 3:22,28; 5:1; Ephesians 2:8,9).
This is faith for salvation or justification. It is trusting in Jesus for our salvation, and receiving Him as our personal Savior.
- B. There is **Christian living** faith (II Corinthians 5:7; Galatians 2:20).
This is the daily faith we need to exercise to live a productive and victorious Christian life. Trusting the Lord to meet our needs, to persevere in trials, to guide us in His will, and to overcome evil and be victorious.
- C. There is **Christian ministry** faith (Romans 12:3-8).
God gives faith with the ministry/motivational gift that He gives to us. We need to exercise our faith by using that gift.
- D. There is **mountain-moving** faith (I Corinthians 12:9; 13:2).
It is sometimes called the gift of faith. This kind of faith believes God to do the humanly impossible. God gives this faith through the Spirit to accomplish special and spectacular things. Our part is to move and follow the leading of the Holy Spirit.

III How do we develop and increase in faith?

- A. We need to have a **close fellowship** with the Lord (John 15:5).
As we spend time in the Lord's presence and learn to communicate with Him, faith will be imparted to us through His Spirit.
- B. We need to be receiving the **Word** of God (Romans 10:17).
The written Word and the specific words we receive from the Spirit will build our faith. We need to know the many promises of God by memory.
- C. We need to **focus** on the positive things of God (Philippians 4:8).
We need to discipline our minds to dwell on the positive things, such as the promises of God. We also need to resist negative thinking (I Timothy 6:12).
- D. We need to develop a life of **praise** (Hebrews 13:15).
As we develop the habit of verbal praise, we will see faith increase. Praise helps you to dwell on how good and powerful the Lord is.
- E. We need to continually **exercise** faith (Matthew 14:28,29).
The more we move and act on our faith, faith will grow and get stronger.
- F. We need to fellowship with believers who have **great faith** (Romans 1:11,12).
Faith like other spiritual qualities is imparted through others. We can receive and increase in faith as we fellowship with people of faith.

Advancing In Witnessing

- I We should be advancing in telling others about Christ (Romans 1:14-16).
- A. We need to develop a **boldness** in our witnessing (Acts 4:31).
On a regular basis we need to be boldly telling others about Christ and His salvation.
 - B. We need to develop a **consistency** in our witnessing.
We need to witness on a regular basis, always ready to share Christ with lost people (II Timothy 4:2).
 - C. We need to come to the place where we are **winning** people to Christ (Proverbs 11:30).
This takes time, but the more we witness and learn how to present the gospel, we will develop into soul-winners. Every Christian can become a soul-winner.
- II There are many reasons and motivations for aggressive verbal witnessing.
- A. It is God's **desire** that people get saved (II Peter 3:9).
The Lord Jesus died for everyone, and He strongly desires that everyone gets saved.
 - B. It is the great **command** of Jesus Christ to His church in this age (Matthew 28:19; Mark 16:15).
This is called the great commission of Christ, and every Christian should be involved in verbal witnessing or evangelism.
 - C. God has chosen to use us as **instruments** in the plan of salvation (Romans 10:14).
We, not angels, are God's necessary link in the salvation of the lost. God saves people through our verbal proclamation of the gospel.
 - D. There is the reality of an **eternal Hell** (Luke 16:23-26; Revelation 20:14,15).
We should tell others and evangelize the lost because they are headed to Hell, forever. We have the message that will rescue them from eternal punishment.
- III How can I become an effective witnessing Christian?
- A. We should believe that we **can** be verbal, consistent, bold witnesses for Christ (Philippians 4:13).
We must believe that with God's grace we will become aggressive witnessing Christians, and be developing into soul-winners. We can through Christ!
 - B. We should have a **vision** of eternity, and an eternal Hell (II Corinthians 4:18).
We should see people as eternal beings destined to live forever. By vision, we mean an inner revelation and understanding of the awfulness of Hell. This vision of Hell will motivate us to witness, and press on to be soul-winners (II Corinthians 5:11).

- C. We should have a **burden** to see people get saved (Romans 10:1).
By burden, we mean a strong desire. Jesus has a strong desire to see people saved, and so should we. This burden is needed to be aggressive witnesses for Christ.
- D. We should be **praying** for lost people (Romans 10:1).
As we pray for lost people, God will give us that burden and vision we need in witnessing.
- E. We need to be **filled** with the Holy Spirit's power and boldness (Acts 4:31).
We need the Holy Spirit's power to witness. Let's continually ask God to give us the Spirit's power and boldness in witnessing.
- F. We need to **conquer** fear (Proverbs 29:25).
We will have fear, but we need to conquer it, especially the fear of man.
- G. We should know how to **present** the plan of salvation (I Peter 3:15).
Memorizing the plan of salvation, point by point, will give you confidence.
- H. We should be **continually** witnessing on a regular basis.
The more we do it, the better we get at it. So let's witness every chance we get.

How To Lead a Person To Christ

(Shorter Version)

I. THE INTRODUCTION

- A. Talk about secular or natural things first.
- B. Ask, "Do you have any interest in spiritual things, or things about God?"
- C. Ask, "Do you **know for sure that you are going to Heaven** when you die?"
- D. Say, "The good news of the Bible is that we can be sure of going to Heaven" (I John 5:13).
- E. Ask, "May I share with you how you can know for sure that you are going to heaven?"

II. THE GOSPEL PRESENTATION

- A. We need to know and **believe that Christ died for our sins and rose again** (Romans 5:8; 4:25).
Christ, God's Son, died for and paid the full penalty for our sins, and He rose again.
- B. We need to **know that eternal life is a free gift in Christ** (Romans 6:23b).
Since Christ died and paid the full penalty for all our sins, eternal life is a free gift. We don't earn it, but simply receive it by faith.
- C. We need to **receive Christ as our own personal Savior and Lord** (John 1:12).
By faith we come to Christ, and ask Him to come into our life (Revelation 3:20).

III. THE INVITATION

- A. Ask, "**Would you like to receive Jesus Christ right now, and be saved?**"
- B. If the person says no, ask him why he will not receive Jesus.
- C. If the person says yes, ask him, "**Would you pray with me right now to receive Christ into your life?**"
- D. When you lead the person into a prayer of accepting Christ, lead him a phrase at a time.

Suggested Prayer:

"Dear Lord Jesus, I know I need to be saved from my sins. I believe You died for me and rose again. I ask You, Jesus, to come into my life. I receive You, Jesus, as my personal Savior, right now. Thank You Jesus for saving me."

IV. THE FOLLOW-UP

- A. Share with the new believer some **keys to growth**:
 - 1. Daily **Bible Reading** - Gospel of John, first, then the Epistles (Romans through Jude).
 - 2. Daily **Prayer** (out loud as well as in your mind).
 - 3. **Telling others** about Christ.
 - 4. **Going to a Bible-believing church** (to all of the Services every week).
- B. Ask the new believer to **attend church with you the next Sunday**. Really try to get him there.
- C. Make an **appointment to see the new believer within a week**.
- D. **Go through a Bible study lesson or booklet** with him, and get him into a New Converts Class.
- E. **Pray for the new believer** on a regular basis.
- F. **Call frequently** to see how he is doing.
- G. **Encourage the new believer to call you** if he has a question or a problem.

Advancing In Love

- I We are to love others the way Christ loves us (John 13:34).
- A. Christ's love was an **unconditional** love, and so should our love be (Romans 5:6-8). Christ loves us even though we have sinned against Him.
 - B. Christ's love was an **unselfish giving** love, and so should our love be (Philippians 2:4-8; I John 3:16). Christ gave Himself entirely for us when He died on the cross. He did it entirely for our benefit.
 - C. Christ's love was a **forgiving** love, and so should our love be (Luke 23:34). Christ was forgiving, even when He was on the cross. We who follow Christ should follow His example of being forgiving.
- II Christlike love is something we should **pursue** diligently (I Corinthians 14:1).
- A. It is the **greatest** quality we can have (I Corinthians 13:13). There are many important qualities we should have but Christlike love is the most important. It is one of the two greatest commandments (Matthew 22:37,38).
 - B. It is the **mark** of being a disciple of Jesus Christ (John 13:34,35). This kind of love is a testimony to the lost that we are close followers of Christ. Christlike love will draw people to Christ, for love is a powerful spiritual force.
 - C. It will produce deep **joy** in our lives (John 15:9-11). We will experience the joy of the Lord in the fullest degree when we live a life of Christlike love. Joy follows love in the list of the fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22,23).
 - D. It will **keep out** of our lives all negative, destructive forces (I John 4:18). There are many negative, destructive forces that can spiritually damage us, but living a life of Christlike love will drive them all out.
 - E. It is a sign of **maturity** in Christ (Matthew 5:43-48). We are called upon to be perfect, which means to be mature. The exhortation to be perfect or mature in Matthew 5:48 is to have perfect or mature love, which is also unconditional love in that passage. We are spiritually mature when we are walking in mature, unconditional love.
- III What are some specific manifestations of Christlike love (I Corinthians 13)? (I Corinthians 13 is called the love chapter, and we should constantly read it).
- A. This love is **kind** and not rude (I Corinthians 13:4). This means being kind in our speech, and in our actions. This also means being warm and friendly to people.

- B. This love is not a self-centered love, but a **others - centered** love (I Corinthians 13:4,5). It does not focus on self and what benefits self, but focuses on what benefits others (Philippians 2:4).
- C. This love **reaches out** to others (Philippians 2:4). Christlike love deeply cares for others, and it reaches out and touches others with God's grace.
- D. This love **accepts** others people (Romans 15:7). We should unconditionally accept others, just as Christ accepts us. We should open our hearts and accept others just the way they are.
- E. This love is a very **positive** love (I Corinthians 13:7). It does not focus on the negative things in others, but focuses on the positive things. It is also solution-oriented, not problem-oriented.
- F. This love gives **practical help** to others when they are in need (I John 4:16-18). Of course we need God's wisdom to know what kind of help to give, but Christlike love always wants to help.
- G. This love continually **forgives** others (Ephesians 4:32). We should be forgiving others when they wrong us, and forgiving others when they fall. Christlike love is not harsh, judgmental, or condemning. Christlike love forgives unconditionally, and does not hold grudges. The New Testament concept of forgiveness means to treat the person as though it never happened.

IV How can we develop this Christlike love in us?

- A. We need to remember to **cooperate** with the Holy Spirit who is working this kind of love in us (Galatians 5:22). The Spirit in us is producing this Christlike quality, but we must respond positively to the Spirit's working in our attitudes and actions.
- B. We should **ask** the Lord for His help to love others as He loves.
- C. We should constantly try to put this love into daily practice with our **words** and **actions**. The more we act and react in Christlike love, it will become dominant in our lives.

Advancing In Ministering To Others

- I The Lord wants every Christian believer to minister to others.
- A. Ministering to others simply means **servicing** others (I Peter 4:10).
We are saved so that we can be a channel of blessing to others.
 - B. We are to be **dispensers** of God's grace.
We who have received God's grace ought to dispense it to others, like a soap dispenser.
 - C. We should follow the example of Jesus and **wash** the feet of others (John 13:1-5).
This means serving others out of love and humility, endeavoring to meet the needs of others.
- II There are some conditions we should meet if we want to minister effectively to others.
- A. We should have a **close relationship** with the Lord (John 15:5).
As we daily walk with the Lord, we will receive from the Lord what we need to minister to others. We don't have to be perfect to minister to others, but we do need the Lord's fellowship.
 - B. We should have a **Christlike love** for others (Ephesians 5:1,2).
When we love others the way Christ loves them, that love will touch them in a powerful way.
 - C. We should have a **servant attitude** (Philippians 2:3-8).
A servant attitude is an unselfish attitude, thinking of the other person's need, and reaching out to them with no selfish motive.
 - D. We should be **sensitive** to the Holy Spirit (Galatians 5:16,25).
The Holy Spirit will lead us to specific people, and we must recognize His divine appointments. We also need the Spirit's leading in how we minister to others.
- III There are practical guidelines in ministering to others.
- A. Let's **expect** the Lord to use us on a regular basis.
The Lord wants to use us, and we should expect Him to. Let's develop that expectancy.
 - B. We should be **observant** of other people, and what they are going through.
Sometimes, we get caught up in our own needs, and we fail to observe the opportunities we have to minister to others. There are divine appointments that we should always be looking for.
 - C. We should **listen** carefully to what people are saying to us.
It is always good to be a good listener. Let's listen not just to their words, but to their struggles and problems. Many times people do not communicate properly, so we must get to what they are really trying to say. However, as Christians we must not listen to gossip. It can be very destructive.

- D. We need to **hear** what the Holy Spirit is saying to us.
The Holy Spirit will be helping us as we minister to others. He knows what they need, and what words they need to hear. Let's tune into the Spirit while we minister to others.
- E. Let's always be **kind** as we speak to them.
We may have to say some challenging things to them, but let's not say it rudely. Let's speak the truth in love (Ephesians 4:15).
- F. We should always endeavor to give some **Biblical principle** that applies to that person's situation. Of course, this means we should be in the Word ourselves, and getting to know more of His Word. As we learn Biblical principles, we should be sharing them with others.
- G. We should **pray** for the person we are ministering to.
Prayer releases the presence and power of God into their lives. As we pray, the Lord will minister to them. It is good to put our hand on the person's shoulder while we pray. We should pray as specifically as we can, and with earnestness.
- H. Let's be as **positive** as we can when we minister to others.
As we share truth and as we pray, let's be positive and not negative. People need hope, and they need to know that God can work in their lives. Even challenging truth can be put in a positive way. We need to build faith and hope.

Advancing In Obedience

- I The Christian life is a life of obedience (I Peter 1:1,2).
- A. Obedience is evidence that we **love** Jesus (John 14:15).
If we really love Jesus, we want to please Him by doing what He wants us to do.
 - B. Our attitude should be that we want to obey the Lord in **everything** (John 2:5).
The servants at the wedding in Cana did exactly what Jesus told them, and so should we. We should not have a pick and choose attitude when it comes to obeying Christ, but an attitude of wanting to do whatever He wants us to do.
 - C. We can live a life of obedience through the **ability** of the Holy Spirit (Ephesians 3:16).
This doesn't mean we will live a perfect life, but we can live a life of obedience. The Holy Spirit gives us the desire and the ability to live a life style of obedience to God. The more we walk in obedience, the easier it is to obey (Matthew 11:28-30).
- II What does it mean to obey the Lord?
- A. We are called upon to obey the **commands** of the Lord (I John 2:3; 5:3).
There are many commands that we should follow such as to love others, forgive, give, confess, pray, etc. which we should and can obey. There are priority commands such as loving others (John 15:12), which we should focus on.
 - B. We should obey the Lord's **clear word** to us (John 15:3).
The Lord speaks to us through the Spirit about what He wants us to do. His word will be clear enough for us to obey.
 - C. We should be **whole - hearted** in our obedience (Romans 6:17).
We should do everything in the Christian life from our hearts, and we should obey Christ with our whole hearts.
 - D. We should obey the Lord in our **minds** (II Corinthians 10:5).
Our minds which is our attitudes control our actions. If we obey the Lord in our thinking, we will obey Him in our actions. We should be choosing Christlike attitudes, and having these attitudes is obeying the Lord.
 - E. Obedience includes a lot of proper **actions** (Hebrews 13:15-19).
There are many actions or good works included in a life of obedience. In this particular passage we are called upon to praise the Lord, do good, share with others, obey leaders, pray, and live honorably.
- III Why is a life of obedience so important to live?
- A. It is **pleasing** in the sight of God (I Samuel 15:22).
It is important to God that we obey Him, and disobedience is rebellion (I Samuel 15:23).
The Lord delights and responds to obedience.

- B. When we walk in obedience, we become **servants** to righteousness and holiness instead of being servants to sin (Romans 6:16).
Obeying God and doing right can become a strong habit in our lives. We also get freed from the power of sin. The power of sin is broken in our lives through a walk of obedience.
- C. We will see **miracles** at times when we obey God (John 2:5-9).
When the servants at the wedding in Cana did exactly what Jesus told them, Jesus changed the water into wine. The Lord many times works miracles through our simple obedience.
- D. Continual obedience brings God's continual **blessings** in our lives (James 1:25).
When we continually obey the Lord in any area of our lives, we will see continual blessings in that area. There are many ways God blesses us, and we will experience many kinds of blessings when we walk in obedience.
- E. There will be special spiritual **rewards** in Heaven for those who lived a life of obedience (I Corinthians 3:11-14).
We should build properly upon the foundation of our salvation in Christ. We build properly by living a life of obedience. Obedience does not save us, but it brings great rewards in Heaven.

Advancing In Sanctification

- I What is sanctification?
- A. The word “sanctify” or “holy” means to be **set apart**.
This is the Biblical meaning of sanctification. We are to be set apart from sin unto the Lord.
 - B. Sanctification is a **work** of the Holy Spirit (II Thessalonians 2:13).
God sanctifies us through His Spirit, but we must cooperate with the Spirit.
 - C. Sanctification includes the **whole** person (I Thessalonians 5:23).
God wants to completely sanctify us through and through, spirit, soul and body. He wants all of us set apart unto Himself.
- II There are three phases or kinds of sanctification.
- A. There is **positional** sanctification (I Corinthians 1:2).
At the moment of salvation, we are eternally set apart positionally in Christ. We are set apart from the kingdom of darkness unto the kingdom of God. The Corinthian believers at Corinth were sanctified positionally, but failed to progress much in sanctification or in a holy life style.
 - B. There is **experiential** or **progressive** sanctification (II Corinthians 3:18).
We are continually being made holy, or continually being sanctified. This is a life long process whereby God sets us apart more and more unto Himself. The more we surrender and obey, the more we are sanctified.
 - C. There is **ultimate** sanctification (I John 3:2).
Either when we die or when Jesus comes again, we will be ultimately sanctified. We will be completely and perfectly sanctified when we see Jesus in the future.
- III The three characteristics of experiential or progressive sanctification (Romans 12:1,2).
- A. **Dedication** is a part of sanctification (Romans 12:1; 6:13).
Dedication is the giving or surrendering of ourselves to God. There is a point where we dedicate our whole life to God, and then we are to continually surrender specific areas of our life to God.
 - B. **Separation** is a part of sanctification (Romans 12:2; II Corinthians 6:17;7:1).
We are to be separate from evil and this evil world. We are not to do the evil things which are in the world (Ephesians 5:8-11). We are to live holy and righteous lives before the Lord.
 - C. **Transformation** is a part of sanctification (Romans 12:2; II Corinthians 3:18).
We are being transformed or radically changed on the inside to be like Christ. Our inner nature is being changed to be like Christ. Christlikeness is what the Holy Spirit is working in us. The central focus of this work is the renewing of our minds. As our minds change, we will change.

IV How are we progressively sanctified?

- A. We are sanctified by the indwelling **Holy Spirit** (II Corinthians 3:18).
The Holy Spirit who indwells and lives inside of every Christian believer is continually setting us apart from sin unto God. He is continually changing us to be more godly and Christlike.
- B. We are sanctified by the **Word** of God (John 17:17; Ephesians 5:26).
As we get into God's Word and let God's Word get into us, we are sanctified by it's truth. We need to read, meditate, and apply God's Word to our lives.
- C. We are sanctified by the **local church** (Hebrews 10:24,25).
We are to fellowship with a local body of believers, and through that fellowship we are set apart more unto God.
- D. We are sanctified by various **circumstances** (Romans 8:28).
God uses both positive and negative circumstances to work in our lives to change us. Let's look to Him as we face these circumstances.
- E. We are sanctified by **spiritual leaders** that God has appointed to be over us (Ephesians 4:11-13).
God has given special leadership gifts to some in the body of Christ. We are to receive from them, submit to them, and follow their leadership.

Advancing In Spiritual Warfare

- I We are in a spiritual battle with Satan and his kingdom (Ephesians 6:10-12).
- A. There are many **evil spirits** that are a part of Satan's kingdom (Ephesians 6:12).
The evil spirits are the fallen angels who were kicked out of Heaven with Satan when they rebelled against God.
 - B. Satan and his evil spirits **blind** the minds of the unsaved to keep them from getting saved (II Corinthians 4:4).
This is why we should pray for the Spirit to open the eyes of the unsaved, and also give them the message of salvation.
 - C. Satan and his evil spirits endeavor to **keep** believers from experiencing God's best (John 10:10).
The enemy does not want us to experience abundant life in Christ. He wants to keep us from the blessings of God, and to keep us from being used mightily by God.
 - D. Spiritual battles with Satan and evil spirits can be won through Christ's **strength** (Ephesians 6:10).
The spiritual battles we have with the enemy may be very hard and long, but we have the ability through Christ's strength to win those battles.
- II We have victory over Satan through the Lord Jesus Christ (I Corinthians 15:57).
- A. When Christ died on the cross and rose again, He **broke** the power of sin and Satan (Colossians 2:15).
Christ defeated Satan and his evil spirits at the cross. He broke the power of Satan, and Satan is a defeated foe. Now, through Christ we can defeat Satan.
 - B. When we are in **union** with Christ, we are one with His position over Satan and all evil spirits (Ephesians 1:20-22; 2:6).
Christ has been raised in the heavenly (spiritual) realms above all evil authorities and powers. When we accept Christ, we are joined to that position over all evil. We are seated with Christ in that high position and we fight the enemy from that position of victory.
 - C. We need to apply that victory to our lives by using **spiritual weapons** (II Corinthians 10:4).
The spiritual weapons are commitment, obedience, God's Word, prayer, bold witnessing, praise, etc. Applying the victory in our daily lives is an ongoing experience for believers.
- III We must be **set free** from all evil strongholds in our lives (II Corinthians 10:4).
- A. Evil spirits can have **partial** control of certain areas of our lives (Ephesians 4:27).
We can never be totally controlled by the enemy, but evil spirits can control specific areas. An evil spirit cannot live or join himself to our spirits where the Holy Spirit is, but an evil spirit can make inroads into the soulish realm, the mind, emotions and enslave part of our wills.
 - B. Believers can and should be **delivered** from any control of the enemy (John 8:36).
Freedom and deliverance is a part of the victory we have in Christ. Part of winning the battle is taking back ground that we allowed the enemy to have.

- C. We need to **call** on the Lord to set us free from evil strongholds (Joel 2:32).
When we call on the Lord in sincere repentance and ask Him to deliver us, He will set us free. Sometimes, we need other strong believers to pray with us and for us.
- IV We can **overcome** Satan and push his kingdom back (Revelation 12:11).
- A. We must make a **total commitment** to Christ and His Kingdom (Luke 9:23,24).
If we are going to win spiritual battles, we must be totally committed to Christ and continually walk in that commitment.
- B. We must have daily **fellowship** with Christ (John 15:5).
In order to overcome, we need divine strength and wisdom which comes through a daily communion with Christ. This means spending time alone with the Lord and communicating with Him throughout the day.
- C. We must live a life of **obedience** (James 1:22-25).
Obedience releases God's blessings and power into our lives. When we walk in obedience in any area, the enemy is defeated in that area. We need to obey God in praying, forgiving, witnessing, tithing, loving, etc.
- D. We must have a **victorious** mind (Philippians 4:13).
A victorious mind is a mind that is set on victory and overcoming. It is a mind that believes and is determined to win through Christ.
- E. We must use our **spiritual authority** in Christ (James 4:7).
Sometimes, we need to speak to evil spirits and exercise our authority in Christ. Through Christ's authority we can bind, resist, and break the power of evil spirits. It is good to use the name of Jesus when doing this.